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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## JOINT INFLUENZA COMMITTEE.

The Surgeon General of the Army, the Surgeon General of the Navy, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and the Director of the Census have designated officers from their respective departments to form a joint influenza committee. The members of the committee are as follows:

*Bureau of the Census.*—Dr. William H. Davis (chairman), Mr. C. S. Sloane.

*Public Health Service.*—Dr. Wade H. Frost, Mr. Edgar Sydenstricker.

*United States Navy.*—Lieut. Commander J. R. Phelps, Surg. Carroll Fox.

*United States Army.*—Col. D. C. Howard, Col. F. F. Russell, Lieut. Col. A. G. Love.

The functions of the committee are to study the epidemic and to make comparable, so far as possible, the influenza data gathered by the Government departments.

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## A UNIFIED HEALTH SERVICE.<sup>1</sup>

By B. S. WARREN, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service.

Within certain limitations a people can have such hygienic conditions as they choose to buy. In other words, "hygienic conditions" are purchasable, and they are safe-paying investments. No State government should delay making such investments on account of the cost. It is now well known from many demonstrations that even under the worst conditions a reasonable expenditure of public funds will afford such protection against disease as to pay large dividends, not only in the saving in human life and suffering but also in dollars and cents.

It is hardly necessary to tell an Alabama audience that Gorgas, Carter, and their assistants made the Panama Canal possible. This demonstration was a wonderful achievement and of itself should be sufficient to cause Gorgas's native State to profit by the example and invest in health work which, beginning at the capital, would reach into the remotest community of the State.

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Birmingham (Ala.) Civic League, Jan. 13, 1919.